

Message Text

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70

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0091

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

NRC BETHESDA

ERDA GERMANTOWN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW, UR, NK, FR, UK, BR, CA

SUBJECT: SOVIET SUPPLY OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO FRG

REF: (A) DUESSELDORF 0492 (NOTAL) (B) BONN 06291

(NOTAL)

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1. REF A REVIEWED RECENT MEDIA REPORTS ABOUT

STATEMENTS BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AND THEIR COMMERCIAL AGENT WHICH EMPHASIZED USSR RELIABILITY AS A SUPPLIER OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES.

2. AN ARTICLE IN "HANDELSBLATT" (MAY 6) REPORTED AN INTERVIEW WITH ALFRED HEMPEL (EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF ROHSTOFF-EINFUHR GMBH OF DUESSELDORF, THE USSR'S COMMERCIAL AGENT IN FRG) WHICH GIVES FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SOVIET ENRICHMENT CAPABILITIES AND FRG-SOVIET TRADE IN ENRICHED URANIUM.

3. HEMPEL REPORTS THAT THE USSR OPERATES THREE ENRICHMENT FACILITIES. WHETHER ADDITIONAL FACILITIES ARE PLANNED IS AS YET UNKNOWN. HEMPEL, HOWEVER, SAID HE COULD WELL IMAGINE THE SOVIETS BUILDING AN ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN SIBERIA, PERHAPS IN COOPERATION WITH GERMAN ENTERPRISE. SUCH SITING COULD EXPLOIT THE INDIGENOUS ENERGY SOURCES (HYDROPOWER, NATURAL GAS, AND PETROLEUM) MORE ECONOMICALLY, ELIMINATING THE ADDED EXPENSE OF TRANSMITTING THE ELECTRIC POWER OVER LONG DISTANCES.

4. ACCORDING TO HEMPEL, THE USSR HAS SUPPLIED DM 150 MILLION WORTH OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO THE FRG. THIS AMOUNT WILL INCREASE TO DM 500 MILLION IN 1975. CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED TOTALLING DM 3.8 BILLION FOR 18,000 TONNE UNITS OF SEPARATIVE WORK TO BE SUPPLIED UNTIL THE YEAR 2000. THE ENRICHED URANIUM WILL BE USED PARTLY TO FUEL SIX GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, INCLUDING ONES WHICH ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR BEING PLANNED. ACCORDING TO HEMPEL, THE USSR HAS ADEQUATE ENRICHMENT CAPACITY TO INCREASE SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO THE FRG TO ANY LEVEL THAT MAY BE DESIRED. THE NATURAL URANIUM, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM OTHER SOURCES, E.G. CANADA, BRAZIL, OR THE U.S.

5. THE CONTRACTS SIGNED TO DATE BETWEEN THE FRG AND SUPPLIERS OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, GIVE THE SOVIETS 15 PERCENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FRG MARKET, 60 PERCENT TO THE US, AND 25 PERCENT TO URENCO (THE GERMAN-BRITISH-DUTCH COOPERATIVE VENTURE). HOWEVER, THESE PROPORTIONS WOULD RAPIDLY CHANGE IF THE EUROPEANS FINALLY AGREE ON THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENRICHMENT FACILITY, OR IF EURODIF II MATERIALIZES. (COMPARE PARA 5, REF B)
HILLENBRAND

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